

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
APRIL 2000 COMMISSION MEETING
REDWOOD CITY, SAN MATEO COUNTY, CA
APRIL 20, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

- Minutes from the February 17 and March 16, 2000, Commission meetings were approved. Minor edits were made to the March 16 minutes. Both sets of minutes have been posted on the State Commission's website (www.ccfc.ca.gov) for review.
- The San Mateo County Children and Families Commission presented its Strategic Plan, which brings to 14 the number of plans received from counties as of April 24, 2000:

Alameda
Los Angeles
Nevada
San Diego
Kern
Merced
Orange
San Mateo
Kings
Napa
Riverside
Santa Barbara
San Bernardino
Tulare

- Other County Commissions reporting on the status of their work were Alameda, Santa Clara, and Kings. A representative of the newly formed Association of County Commission Executive Directors requested, and the State Commission supported, setting time on each State Commission meeting agenda for County Commission Executive Directors to present issues of interest to them. The State Commission expressed appreciation to the organizers of the County Commission Executive Directors Association and indicated an interest in staying in close communication.
- The Commission's draft Objectives and Priorities were presented by Commission members, and a plan for obtaining public input and more in-depth responses from County Commissions was proposed. The Objectives and Priorities are being developed to implement the State Commission's "Strategic Results" that have been adopted: 1) improved family functioning – strong families; 2) improved child development – children learning and ready for school; and 3) improved child health – healthy children. It was proposed that four regional public forums will be held during May and June, and that further input will be sought from conference calls between the State and County Commissions. The draft Objectives and Priorities will be posted by April 28 on the State Commission's website and comments from the public can be sent via email to: info@ccfc.ca.gov.
- Commission members approved a Business Plan for the "Kit for New Parents" (formerly known as the Welcome Baby Kit), which includes videos, brochures, a book for parents to read to their young children, and a comprehensive "Parents Guide" that is being developed by University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health. The Business Plan calls for pilot testing the content and distribution methods of the kit in two yet-to-be-determined counties, at a cost of

- \$650,000. In addition, the State Commission approved \$1.5 million for production of the Parents Guide. Depending on the results of the pilot test, statewide implementation of the Kit for New Parents, with all materials available in English and Spanish, is anticipated to be December 2000.

- Commission members approved funding for the following two programs:

Family Child Care Home Accreditation Project: \$3 million. This project will provide licensed family child care homes incentives and technical assistance to become accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) or by an equivalent accrediting body. Added incentives may be provided to those family child care homes that target underserved populations, such as providers of night and weekend care and infant and toddler care. Funding would provide incentive grants of up to a maximum of \$2,500 to licensed family child care homes. The grant will cover, among other things, the cost of the accreditation paid directly to the accrediting body and reimbursement to the provider for continuing education hours.

Operation of the 1-800-KIDS 025 Toll-Free Phone Line: \$1 million for one year. This funding will provide for the operation of the 800 number, including live operators in English and Spanish, and the storage, packaging, shipping and handling of all information materials provided to callers. An important component of the State Commission's public education program, this toll-free line provides the public with educational materials and resources about early childhood development and smoking cessation.

- The Chairman reported that \$638,382,029 has been paid to counties to date.
- The next monthly meeting of the California Children and Families Commission is on May 18 in Los Angeles County. Check the State Commission's website in May for the specific location and agenda.